

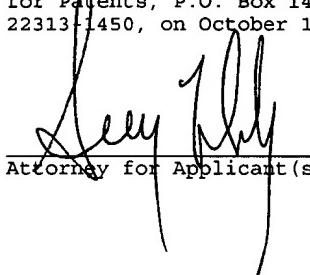
REMARKS

In this Amendment, Claims 18-32 have been canceled without prejudice to expedite prosecution. Claims 1-6, 8-17, the remaining pending claims, have been allowed.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request allowance of all pending claims. If the Examiner has any questions relating to the above, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned Attorney for Applicant(s).

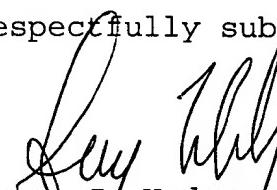
CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on October 15, 2004.


Serge J. Hodgson
Attorney for Applicant(s)

October 15, 2004
Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,


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